

GREENSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, November 8, 2006 – 6:00pm

Trotter Recreation Center – 3906 Betula Street

PRESENT: Paul Brown, Marc Bush, Robert Douglas, III, David Hoggard, Rose Marie Ponton, Cheryl Wilson

ABSENT: Lori Galbreath, Judi Rossabi, Randy Scott

STAFF PRESENT: Candice Bruton, Jenny Caviness, Ed Deaton, John Hughes, Bonnie Kuester, Marcie Richardson, Dee Scott, Laurie Thore, Heather Ulrich, Richard Wagner, Bernadette White, Chris Wilson

The regular meeting of the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission was held at Trotter Recreation Center. Robert Douglas, III, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 13, 2006 Commission Meeting were approved as submitted.

Recognition

Bonnie Kuester, Director, recognized the Parks and Recreation Employee of the Month for October, Richard Wagner and Employee of Month for November, Jenny Caviness.

Linda Marsh, Glenwood Recreation Center Fencing Instructor, recognized and thanked the City of Greensboro and the Parks and Recreation Department for their support of the fencing program.

Robert Douglas, III, Commissioner, recognized the retirement of Ed Deaton, Division Manager.

OLD BUSINESS

2006 Bond Referendum

Candice Bruton, Strategic Planning Administrator, stated the following approved 2006 Parks and Recreation Bond Referendum projects.

- Southwest Recreation Center Improvements
- Lee Street Park
- Skate Park
- Brightwood Neighborhood Park
- Greensboro Sportsplex
- David Caldwell Historic Park
- Trail System Expansion
- Land Acquisition

Bruton stated that there has been discussion regarding the War Memorial Stadium Bond Project that was not approved and what the future holds for this facility.

David Hoggard and Marc Bush stated their concerns regarding War Memorial Stadium and that although this bond project was not approved, there will need to be a plan to continue maintaining the stadium as a first class youth and collegiate baseball facility.

Accreditation Update

Bernadette White, Project Specialist, announced that the Commission of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) has confirmed to the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department that the department met the requirements of becoming one of sixty-six accredited agencies in the nation and the fourth accredited agency in North Carolina. A report will be submitted to CAPRA annually until they return with our five year accreditation in 2011. We will continue to work to ensure that we offer the best to our citizens and maintain the level of quality we have achieved in our services.

Bluford Park Update

Bruton stated that the Bluford Park shelter concerns are being brought forth to the Commission for their consideration. Bruton referenced documents that were distributed to the Commission that give historical information on this item. Bruton stated that there are different opinions among neighbors in the Bluford Park community relative to the location of a proposed picnic shelter. A subcommittee of the Commission has worked with the Bluford Neighborhood Association working towards an evolution to the solution.

Bruton continued stating that in the spring of 2005 representatives from the Parks and Recreation Department informed Bluford Park Neighborhood Association representatives that Guilford County Schools passed a bond in 2004 which addresses amenities in school parks within communities. As a potential solution to the issue at Bluford Park it was suggested to the Bluford Park community to perhaps wait until Guilford County Schools was ready to spend their 2004 bond dollars and perhaps they would consider a shelter at Peeler Elementary School. At that time, the Neighborhood Association representatives agreed with the Commission subcommittee that this would be appropriate. This past summer Guilford County Schools announced they were ready to spend the bond funds. Parks and Recreation then reconvened with the Bluford Park community and held a public meeting, facilitated by a trained mediator, regarding this issue. The purpose of the meeting was to gain feedback and for the community to have the opportunity to voice their opinions in terms of the potential placement of the shelter at Peeler Elementary School. The next step identified at that meeting were for the Commission subcommittee take the concerns back to the Commission at Large at which point the Commission could begin working towards a decision on this issue.

Robert Douglas, III opened the floor to anyone wanting to speak on this item.

Louise McKesson, residing at 1810 Eastwood Avenue; Robert Tonkins, residing at 1808 Muncey Lane; and Charles Robinson, residing at 2313 Bothwell Street; cited their opposition with regard to constructing a shelter in Bluford Park and the issues they believe may arise with having a shelter in their community.

Harvey Moses, residing at 2115 Edmond Drive, James C. Johnson, residing at 2114 Edmond Drive, and Joe Beasley, residing at 2200 Bothwell Street; cited their approval with regard to constructing a shelter in Bluford Park and the benefits they believe by having a shelter.

A motion was made by David Hoggard to support that the shelter be built at Peeler Elementary School. With no second the motion died.

A motion was made by Marc Bush to support that the shelter be built at Bluford Park. With no second the motion died.

Action Taken

A motion was made by Marc Bush and seconded by David Hoggard for the Parks and Recreation Commission to support the partnership with Guilford County Schools to build the picnic shelter at Peeler Elementary School. A vote in favor was unanimous.

Nominating Committee

Marc Bush, Commissioner, on behalf of the nominating committee, recommended Robert Douglas, III continue to serve as the Parks and Recreation Commission Chair and David Hoggard continue to serve as Vice-Chair.

Action Taken

A motion was made by Paul Brown and seconded by Rose Marie Ponton that Robert Douglas, III continue to serve as Parks and Recreation Commission Chair and David Hoggard continue to serve as Vice-Chair. A vote in favor was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Tobacco Free Facilities

Chris Wilson, Division Manager, stated that Parks and Recreation has been approached with a proposal in reference to Parks and Recreation Facilities promoting tobacco free areas. A presentation was given by Michelle Moffat, Community Health Educator, and several youth from the Guilford County Tobacco Prevention Program. The presentation consisted of why Parks and Recreation should have tobacco free facilities. Moffat stated that there are two playgrounds in Guilford County that have recently become tobacco free and will soon begin phasing in their athletic fields to become tobacco free before spring.

Wilson recommended to the Commission that, if approved, that the tobacco free facilities be considered as a phasing process to begin with playgrounds and youth athletic areas only. The Legal Department informed Parks and Recreation that it is lawful for park facilities to have tobacco free areas which can be endorsed through signage. The Guilford County Tobacco Prevention Program has offered to place signs stating locations of tobacco free areas and locating earns in designated smoking areas.

Action Taken

A motion was made by Rose Marie Ponton and seconded by Cheryl Wilson to approve the proposed phasing process for tobacco free facilities. A vote in favor was unanimous.

2007 Commission Meeting Schedule

The 2007 Commission meeting schedule was approved as submitted.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

- NONE -

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

- NONE -

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Rose Marie Ponton commended Bonnie Kuester and staff for their efforts regarding the 2006 Parks and Recreation Bond Referendum as the votes showed how much the Parks and Recreation Department is appreciated.

Cheryl Wilson stated that she enjoyed the opportunity of being a costume judge at the Ghoulash event.

With no further business Hoggard adjourned the meeting at 7:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Richardson, Executive Assistant
Greensboro Parks and Recreation